

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) Steering shaft universal double joint for motor vehicles with shaft ends fastened against rotation in the universal double joint, these ends being held for movement in a housing joining ~~the~~ two single joints and the shaft ends being joined together between the two single joints by a ball joint so that a ball, connected to one of the shaft ends, is mounted for rotation about a center point of the ball in a socket of the other shaft end and is slidingly movable in the direction of the shaft axis of the other shaft end, wherein the socket is resiliently pivotably mounted to the other shaft end.

21. (currently amended) Universal double joint ~~Joint~~ according to claim 20, further comprising:

a slide bushing held by the socket, the slide bushing being enveloped at least partially by the socket and being disposed between the ball and the socket.

22. (withdrawn) Joint according to claim 20,

wherein the resilient mounting includes metal springs, preferably plate springs.

23. (currently amended) Universal double joint ~~Joint~~ according to claim 21,

wherein the resiliently pivotably mounting of the socket in the other shaft end includes metal springs.

24. (withdrawn) Joint according to claim 20,

wherein the resilient mounting includes elastomeric spring pads, preferably with annular pads between washers of, for example, metal.

25. (currently amended) Universal double joint~~Joint~~ according to claim 23,

wherein the metal springs are plate springs, and

wherein the plate springs are biased against the socket, so that the shaft axis, when in the unstressed position, is aligned with the axis of the socket.

26. (withdrawn) Joint according to any one of the foregoing claims,

wherein the bushing consists of a sintered metal, preferably with a supporting sleeve or a lubricant coating.

27. (currently amended) Universal double joint~~Joint~~ according to claim ~~20~~ 21,

wherein the bushing is slotted such that the bushing is resiliently movable in a radial direction.

28. (withdrawn) Joint according to claim 21,

wherein the bushing envelops the ball in a wear- and tolerance-equalizing manner in any working position, the bushing being installed in the tumbler guide with clearance approaching zero.

29. (currently amended) Universal double joint~~Joint~~ according to claim 21,

wherein ~~in an end portion of a fork~~ at the other shaft end, an annular chamber is formed to accommodate a pre-biased spring disposed between a first flange on the ~~fork~~ shaft end side and a second flange on the socket, so that the socket can tumble resiliently about the shaft axis in case of radial action by a force.

30. (currently amended) Universal double joint~~Joint~~ according to claim 21,
wherein the bushing is held in an axial direction at at least one end by the
socket by a rim or by claws.

31. (withdrawn) Joint according to claim 21,
wherein, between the bushing and the tumbler guide, a plastic sleeve,
preferably slotted and tapered, and preferably of POM is provided, and it is preferably under
pressure by a spring.

32. (withdrawn) Joint according to claim 20,
wherein a plastic sliding guide is provided between the socket and the ball
such that it receives the ball for rotational movement and is carried for sliding movement in
the axial direction by the socket, the guide being preferably injection-molded directly onto
the ball.

33. (withdrawn) Joint according to claim 32,
wherein the socket has spring-finger-like structure on its circumference and
resiliently grips the plastic sliding guide between ball and the socket.

34. (withdrawn) Joint according to claim 32,
wherein the plastic sliding guide is enveloped in an outer wall area by a pre-
biased plastic spring which slides in the socket, this spring preferably having slots in its
circumference, so that it can breathe in the radial direction.

35. (withdrawn) Joint according to claim 33,

wherein the plastic sliding guide is enveloped in an outer wall area by a pre-biased plastic spring which slides in the socket, this spring preferably having slots in its circumference, so that it can breathe in the radial direction.

36. (currently amended) Universal double joint Joint according to claim 20,

wherein on an inner wall of the housing an abutment structure is provided for the ball and the socket.

37. (currently amended) Universal double joint Joint according to claim 36,

wherein the abutment structure is so configured that the ball and the socket define given allowable positions in all extreme joint deflections and in the case of assembly, the abutment structure being so configured that in case of abutment first the socket and then the ball makes contact.

38. (Cancelled).

39. (currently amended) Universal double joint Joint according to claim 23,

wherein the metal springs include plate springs.

40. (currently amended) Universal double joint Joint according to claim 21,

wherein the socket is resiliently supported in the axial direction.

41. (currently amended) Universal double joint Joint according to claim 21,

wherein the slide bushing is resiliently held by the socket.

42-43. (Cancelled).

44. (currently amended) A steering shaft universal double joint for motor vehicles, comprising:

two shaft ends;

two single joints, each shaft end being connected to one of the joints;

a housing joining the two single joints; and

a socket and a ball joint disposed in the socket, the shaft ends being joined together between the two single joints by the ball joint and socket, wherein the ball joint is associated with one of the shaft ends and is able to rotate in the socket and slidingly movable in the direction of the shaft axis of the other shaft end, and wherein the socket is resiliently pivotably connected to the other shaft end.

45. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 44, further comprising:

a bushing disposed between the ball joint and the socket, wherein the bushing is resiliently disposed in the socket.

46. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 44, wherein the socket is resiliently supported in the axial direction by the other shaft end.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 45, further comprising:

a spring, wherein the socket is resiliently pivotably mounted to the other shaft end using the spring, and the spring biases the socket to a position where an axis of the socket is aligned with an axis of the other shaft end.

49. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 48,

wherein the socket is resiliently supported in the axial direction by the spring.

50. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 47 45,
wherein the bushing is slotted such that the bushing is resiliently movable in a radial direction within the socket.

51. (withdrawn) The joint according to claim 50,
wherein the bushing envelops the ball in a wear- and tolerance-equalizing manner, the bushing being installed in the socket with zero clearance.

52. (withdrawn) The joint according to claim 44, further comprising:
a slotted and tapered plastic sleeve disposed between the bushing and the socket.

53. (withdrawn) The joint according to claim 44, further comprising:
a plastic sliding guide disposed between the socket and the ball such that the plastic sliding guide receives the ball for rotational movement and is carried for sliding movement in the axial direction by the socket

54. (withdrawn) The joint according to claim 53,
wherein the sliding guide is injection-molded directly onto the ball.

55. (withdrawn) The joint according to claim 53,
wherein the plastic sliding guide is enveloped in an outer wall area by a pre-biased plastic spring which slides in the socket, the plastic spring having slots in a circumference of the spring, so that the plastic spring can breathe in the radial direction.

56. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 44,
wherein the other shaft end includes an annular chamber containing a spring disposed between a first flange on the side of the other shaft and a second flange on the

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socket, so that the socket can tumble resiliently about the shaft axis when subjected to a radial force.